

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00041 081316Z

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ACTION FSI-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /002 W

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P 081150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9070

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0041

EYES ONLY FOR FSI DR. SOLLENBERGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSU, BU

SUBJECT: POST LANGUAGE TRAINING BUDGET

REF: SOFIA 39

1. I REALIZE THIS IS ONE HELL OF A TIME TO BE ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN OUR LANGUAGE TRAINING BUDGET WHEN YOU HAVE JUST CUT US DOWN BY \$100, BUT WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO MAKE REQUEST FOR INCREASE WHEN THIS ADDITIONAL BLOW DESCENDED ON US. (THE PREVIOUS BLOW WAS UPWARD VALUATION OF THE CURRENCY HERE.)

2. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE MY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS TO TAKE MORE LESSONS (OR RESUME TAKING THEM) SINCE TO MY HORROR I FOUND THAT THEIR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY WAS ACTUALLY DECLINING BECAUSE OF THE IRON CURTAIN THAT STILL EXISTS HERE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND BULGARIANS AS FAR AS NON-OFFICIAL CONTACTS ARE CONCERNED.

3. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT YOU WILL TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN SOFIA 39. IF WE HAVE TO DISCONTINUE OR CRIPPLE OUR LANGUAGE PROGRAM HERE, IT WOULD HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR MISSION.
HERZ

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